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ABSTRACT

The computer design of the system serving the 53 library systems of the Washington Library Network provides nine online files through its integrated bibliographic and acquisitions subsystems. The bibliographic subsystem provides an authority file of author, title, series, and subject headings; a bibliographic file of MARC records on books, films, and serials; a holding file of 340,000 union holdings statements linked to appropriate bibliographic records, a working file of newly created records, and a waiting file of work requests. The acquisitions subsystem includes an process of payment and order records, a standing order file, a library accounts file, and a directory file. The entire bibliographic database serves as a network-wide union catalog and a computer output microfiche catalog provides many participants with primary search tools at their branch libraries. Database searching is available on the full set of access points. Serials ordering, a circulation subsystem and interlibrary loans, and reference services are all facilitated by the computer. The Washington Library Network is presently integrating the Research Libraries Group of Stanford University and has established a cooperative program with the National Library of Australia. (RAA)

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The Development of the Washington Library Network
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In state legislation, the Washington Library Network is defined as an organization of autonomous libraries, which participate in the following network components:

- a. interlibrary system
- b. reference and referral system
- c. telecommunication system
- d. computer system

Today I will focus on the fourth component, the Washington Library Network computer system.

The Washington Library Network computer system provides direct service to the libraries of the Pacific Northwest and a transportable software system for operation on computers elsewhere. The WLN computer system is viewed as a regional service providing computer support to libraries in Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Oregon, as well as Washington State.

As of August 1, 1979, 53 library systems were using WLN via 132 terminals. Of the participants, 33 were academic libraries, three state libraries, and 17 public library systems, comprising 280 individual

libraries. Each member library is responsible for adding current cataloging and holdings records.

It has been the philosophy of WLN from its beginning to provide all types of network services to its membership. Its computer design, therefore, represents that philosophy. The data base presently consists of nine on-line files in the integrated bibliographic and acquisitions subsystems.

In the bibliographic subsystem, there are the following files:

1. Authority File -- contains the authorized forms of author headings (including uniform titles), author/title series and title series headings, and subject headings used in bibliographic records, and also cross-references and notes.

Let's examine this on-line authority file. Careful quality control ensures that all headings into the data base conform to current Library of Congress standards as reflected in the MARC tapes. All local cataloging is reviewed by staff at the Network level to ensure that it agrees with current Library of Congress practice. As a result, the data base is nearly free from variant forms of headings, except as cross references, and from substandard cataloging.

With the implementation of AACR II, WLN will be able to conform with the standards set forth. This is due to already established authority control capabilities. Appropriate see cross-references and notes will be entered as needed. A

linkage between the previously authorized form--the ALA Code-- and the presently authorized form--the AACR II--will be maintained by cross-references and notes in the Authority File.

There are three basic reasons why WLN will be able to change to AACR II:

- (1) WLN already adheres to standards which will allow consistent and complete changes.
- (2) Bibliographic review procedures enable WLN to maintain a consistent data base and control unauthorized changes.
- (3) Participants can initiate changes on-line (for headings and other parts of MARC records). The addition of cross references to bibliographic records could even be performed by reference.

2. Bibliographic File -- contains all LC-distributed MARC records for books, films, and serials in full MARC format in addition to an ever increasing number of locally-input bibliographic records in MARC format.

3. Holdings File -- contains over 340,000 union holdings statements, with one or more library locations, which are linked to appropriate bibliographic records. Over 1,000,000 library locations are identified in the Holdings File with 60-100,000 locations being added each month.

4. Working File -- contains newly-created cataloging records prior to their addition to the data base and copies of all existing data base records that are undergoing correction.
5. Waiting File -- contains standing requests for cataloging products (cards and labels) that have not been produced because full cataloging records do not exist in the data base.

The acquisitions subsystem files include:

1. In-Process File -- contains order claiming, receiving and payment records for all types of library materials in the process of being ordered or paid for by a library.
2. Standing Orders File -- contains information related to orders that are received or reordered.
3. Account Status File -- contains a record for each account within a library.
4. Name and Address File -- contains the names and addresses of vendors, libraries and branches.

Records in the Bibliographic File are internally linked to appropriate records in the other files, to keep data redundancy in the WLN data base to a minimum. The separation of the files allows direct access to specific information and makes file maintenance easier.

The Authority, Bibliographic, and Holdings Files combine to support the Union Catalog function. The Authority and Bibliographic Files are made up of Collections which represent authority groups, or groups of libraries that use and share in the maintenance of the same name, subject and series authority lists. The WLN computer system can support a number of collections which adhere to different authority lists. A second collection will be brought up in the next few months to allow for retrospective records to be input which will not come under full authority control, but will meet standards set by the WLN bibliographic standards committee.

The entire Bibliographic data base serves as a network-wide union catalog. Alternately, specific collections can be utilized as separate union catalogs on-line and in WLN-produced off-line catalogs. A supplement to the on-line holdings file is called the WLN Resource Directory. A computer output microfiche (COM) catalog of the entire holdings file, with related bibliographic and authority data, provides many participants primary search tools in their branch libraries. Other products include catalog cards, labels, computer output microfiche (COM) and book catalogs, special bibliographies, accession lists and holdings for a particular participant. Acquisition products include purchase order forms, processing slips, vendor reports, notification cards, claim letters, and receiving reports.

This file structure of WLN is designed for efficient searching. Authority records are linked to bibliographic records which contain links to appropriate records in the holdings, working, waiting, in-process and standing order files. It is not necessary to rekey a command in order

to search other files; e.g., the holdings file can be searched on the basis of results from a search in the bibliographic file.

There are a variety of types of searches available:

1. For titles and corporate or conference meeting names, the search is by distinctive words in the title or name (keywords). Generally, 2-3 words from the title are chosen and they need not be in any specific order. E.g., "IFLA Seoul" will retrieve "IFLA World Wide Seminar, Seoul, Korea, 1976."
2. For authors, subjects or series, the search can be formulated on the main heading, subheadings or a combination of both in any order. E.g., Ghosts--Interviews, could also be searched as Interviews--Ghosts (order of subfields), or e.g., "IFLA pre-session #--Liverpool" will retrieve "IFLA Presession Seminar for Developing Countries, Liverpool, 1971 (transaction)".
3. Authority file author, subject or series headings can be scanned (or browsed) in alphabetic order beginning with any heading found by a previous search of the file. Topical and geographic subject headings can be scanned directly without a previous search required.

Imprecise inquiries to the WLN data base are seldom necessary because, with the full set of access points available, it is easy to increase searching precision. Any list of records can be further manipulated to select a record or subset of records to appear in any of the available

displays. Any list of bibliographic records can be displayed in either author or title sort order. The original results of the search request can be manipulated to display as many selected screens as desired without having to rekey the search request.

Other features of the system include:

1. Serials Ordering -- WLN provides ordering and subscription record maintenance for serials including fund accounting, through its Acquisition Subsystem.
2. Circulation Subsystem -- this subsystem is being developed on contract with Dataphase Systems of Kansas City. It will run on minicomputers each of which can serve several libraries. The on-line Circulation file can be searched by author, title identification number, and call number. The subsystem has been designed to provide for reserves, recalls, overdue, audio-visual booking, charging to secondary locations, and inventory control.
3. Interlibrary Loan -- WLN's on-line holdings file is designed to facilitate interlibrary loan. Brief bibliographic information is provided in the holdings file for each item owned by one or more Participants. Local library call numbers and holdings symbols are attached to each record. A maximum of ten holdings records can be displayed simultaneously.

Washington Participants in WLN sign a "Memorandum of Agreement" committing them to participate in interlibrary lending,

ensuring the availability of most listed items.

4. Reference -- As already indicated, the system is specifically designed to support reference services. A variety of access points to the data base are available. The keyword searches allow the user to access even vague or imprecise titles and complex corporate headings with relative ease.

Since the start of this year, the system which operated on an AMDAHL 470/V6 II has had an availability record of over 96%. Response time at the mainframe computer averages 3 seconds over the 12 hours operating period.

Since it has gone into full operation, WLN has emerged as an effective and efficient automated system to support acquisitions, cataloging, and technical processing functions in libraries of all types and sizes. The on-line union catalog and COM catalog production has greatly expanded the effectiveness of reference and interlibrary loan services.

With a strong commitment to providing regional network services coupled with the recognition of activities at the national level, WLN stands ready to participate and to contribute in U.S./national network planning where appropriate.

The recent agreement with the Research Libraries Group, based at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, identified this continuing role. WLN and RLG believe that by cooperating with one another in a variety of areas, they can enhance their individual capacities to serve the program

requirements of their member libraries. Both organizations are program based, that is, their goals and objectives include but extend beyond bibliographic utility and technical processing support to active management of collection development and shared access programs.

Both organizations believe that a program integration of a regional network and a national network offers advantages to their member libraries. The creation of joint programs in an era of limited development resources can work to mutual advantages. Three areas of active exploration have been agreed upon:

1. Functional and systems specification
2. Sharing of Data Bases
3. Software and Data Base Exportation

This program is viewed by both as the establishment of a cooperative program relationship between the Research Libraries Group and the Washington Library Network falling within the scope of the Bibliographic Service Development Program of the Council on Library Resources.

On the international scene, the WLN software has been successfully installed on an IBM 370/148 at the National Library of Australia in Canberra, Australia. The agreement called for a period of trial operation, which was successful, and is now being followed by a permanent licensing agreement. The successful completion of the project has demonstrated the feasibility of sophisticated on-line network software replication. Included in the agreement will be exchange of enhancement features and future data exchanges.

The Washington Library Network Computer System has proved itself to be a successful regional network, is working with other network computer systems to build a U.S./National Network, and with replication of its software in Australia, has involved itself with the international library community.